

# **Long Term Care Coordinating Council**

## **Regular Meeting**

**March 9, 2011**

**10:00 am**

**Rhode Island Health Care Association**

**57 Kilvert Street**

**Warwick, RI**

### **Draft Minutes**

**Chairwoman Lt. Governor Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:09am.**

**The minutes from the January meeting were approved unanimously.**

**The chair recognized Ray Rusin of the Department of Health. Mr. Rusin gave a presentation on the reports of nursing home deficiencies monitoring and a discussion on nursing home bed capacity. Mr. Rusin gave us an up-to-date overview of the facilities being monitored. He stated that his department has been going through transitional changes which have resulted in the decrease of staff and difficulties in meeting deadlines.**

**Mr. Rusin clarified Rhode Island's licensing authority and informed the council of the amount of nursing homes and nursing home beds within the state. He also clarified the process for accreditation for both Medicare and Medicaid. Mr. Rusin stated that for facilities that have closed down, there is no written regulation that allows the beds to be used in other nursing homes.**

**Mr. Rusin stated that there is a current moratorium on new nursing home beds until 2013. There is a formula for the addition of beds**

**within the moratorium limit..**

**The council discussed the presentation. One participant questioned the reality of the states' bed capacity due to the facilities' infrastructure. Mr. Rusin stated that in 10 to 15 years and with changes in demographics, these can be an asset to nursing homes.**

**The council discussed the occupancy of the nursing homes and raised a number of concerns. One participant (Virginia Burke) stated that many of these facilities are penalized if rate of occupancy is low. There is a 98% state median occupancy for nursing homes.**

**The chair raised concerns regarding the average length of time elders stay in nursing homes. It was clarified that both Medicaid and Medicare have different length of stay.**

**The council requested research done on the correlation among the use of Medicaid and Medicare within the change in demographics using assisted livings and nursing homes. How have they changed?**

**The chair recognized Virginia Burke from RIHCA to provide data on Medicaid's statewide occupancy of nursing homes. Ms. Burke also provided nationwide data on elderly population; stating that there a very high concentration persons over 85 within Rhode Island's elderly population.**

**The chair recognized Dan Meuse to discuss state budget. Mr. Meuse stated that the state has a projected deficit of 331 million FY2012. The deficit is being addressed in three ways. Mr. Meuse announced changes in new revenues including changes in sales tax. He stated that non-profit organizations will be paying a 1% sales tax on purchases that had previously been exempt**

**Mr. Meuse also announced major expenditure changes and stated that the restructure in transportation funding will transfer into a pay-as-you-go system.**

**Mr. Meuse discussed the programs being changed that affect long term care patients and providers. The first proposed change discussed was Nursing Home Rate Reform. Mr. Meuse stated that the proposal would move nursing homes from a cost based system to a price per patient. The council raised the concerns about the quality focus in a price based system.**

**Mr. Meuse discussed the proposal to create Health Homes, stating that it will be affecting DHS and BHDDH. One of the participants of the council raised concerns over the news of change in pediatrics and requested more information on any changes being made within Health Homes..**

**Mr. Meuse discussed the Money Follows the Person program.**

**Mr. Meuse discussed changes in transportation rates and stated that it had been effective on February 1st. The chair asked the council if there has been any impact and within their communities. The council stated that ambulance providers have commented on the great impact this has had. The council asked if there was anyone monitoring the effects of this change. The chair stated that there was no clear monitoring process, but the council was encouraged to monitor their communities and report any concerns.**

**Mr. Meuse discussed changes in Eleanor Slater staffing and stated that it will be reducing overtime cost. He also discussed the RICLAS system and the closures of 6 group homes.**

**Mr. Meuse discussed the Veterans Homes and stated that it was taken out of DHS and placed under a new agency, the Department of Veterans' Affairs. There are many budget and staffing changes being made, including a proposal to increase the share of income used by the home. The council asked if anyone was appointed to this department. The chair stated that the Veterans Homes has not yet released any information regarding their heads of department.**

**The chair discussed the Health Services council and stated that the statute will be repealed. The council had a lively debate on this change and stated that without the Certificate of Need standards could be compromised. The chair clarified that there will be a community discussion. The council had no further comments on changes being made.**

**The chair discussed the Internal Changes in OHHS and stated that administrations and staff are being jointed and moved. The council had no comments or concerns on changes made to this program.**

**The chair recognized Director Catherine Taylor to discuss changes being made to RIPAE. Director Taylor discussed the proposal to transition RIPAE out of its current program form and into "next-generation" RIPAE. She discussed that due to the changes to the Medicare prescription drug benefit, RIPAE benefits have been dwindling. The goal would be to have RIPAE continue to fill in the "donut hole" but to also provide counseling to participants so that they were making the best possible choices with their prescription benefits. The council had concerns over how the budget was being spent and requested a separate meeting with RIPAE.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.**